

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: February 25, 2020

Time: 10:00am

Place: Town Hall

Egremont

Present at the table were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie.

Others in attendance: Tom Reynolds, Jim Noe, Tom Berkel, Charlie Proctor, Mary McGurn, Laura Allen, Joyce Frater and Rose Levine.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

The Board discussed with Road Superintendent Jim Noe his budget requests. After a great deal of discussion it was agreed to budget the Snow & Ice expenses at \$70,000 but to no longer take vehicle repair expenditures out of that amount. The amount will only be for winter materials, supplies and fuel. Jim will come back in 2 weeks to discuss a possible need for an increase in the vehicle maintenance and repairs account. There was a great deal of discussion around increasing funding for roadway resurfacing. Jim will return in 2 weeks with some additional information to support an increase to \$150,000 for resurfacing. The base Highway Construction budget of \$194,800 was approved.

School Superintendent Beth Regulbuto would not release any assessment figures as she was not comfortable with them as of yet. She told the board that transportation costs are up due to the contract, there is no increase in health insurance, the budget will include the use of about \$250,000 in excess and deficiency funds, enrollment is up 24 students, 3 or 4 of those are from Egremont, school administration is as lean as can be, the only personnel cuts are a half time position. She talked about a college prep program in conjunction with Simon's Rock and said that more students are doing internships to learn a trade. There are currently 14 students enrolled in the South Egremont program. The pre-k program is full and the district is looking at increasing to a full day program. The district is using a shared accounting/business manager service now. Capital is up a bit. More details will be released at the Thursday evening School Committee subcommittee meeting. The total proposed operating budget is \$15,259,072, with \$1,800,000 of that being transportation. The district is buying small buses to use for sports and field trips to help lower the transportation costs. Egremont's allocation of the bond is \$34,895.

The Board discussed the proposal for the electrical upgrade and a new generator for Town Hall with Tom Reynolds. It was ultimately agreed to move forward with a propane generator with an underground tank. The Town budgeted \$57,000 last year which will carryover. An additional \$117,000 will be needed to finish this project. It was noted that water testing at French Park is no longer required. The French Park expense budget now includes funds for two water bubblers. This budget request in the amount of \$2825 was approved. French Park repairs this year will include new footing for the horse ring, repairs to the little league fence, repairs to the surface of the basketball court and Tom and Scott will put a new roof on the bathrooms. This budget request in the amount of \$14,500 was approved.

Joyce Frater presented a preliminary budget for the Friends of Prospect Lake (FOPL) in support of their request for \$5,000 for treating the lake. The Board agreed to make this a line item budget instead of a special article.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00noon.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

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The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.